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THOROUGH PREPARATION NEEDED FOR 1949 TIMBER SUPPLY PLAN

The task of early fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan requires that the national economy be supplied with all necessary types of materials, and in quantities fully satisfying the increasing construction and industrial needs. The importance of the preparation of the plan of material and technical supply in 1949 is, therefore, obvious.

Soviet planning units have already begun this task. It is closely connected with revision and development of new, advanced, more progressive norms for supplying enterprises and construction projects with metal, timber, cement, fuel, and other very important types of material and technical provisions.

Setting advanced norms of supply is part of the drive for rational, economical utilization of valuable materials produced by the Soviet State. As a result, the establishment of norms is indissolubly connected with the drive for higher quality materials and strict adherence to standards and technical specifications.

When the norms have been established in the lumber industry and other branches of timber industrial production and lumber supply have been solved, millions of additional cubic meters of wood will be put into the service of the national economy. This wood is now lost through waste, unnecessary allowances, and thriftless use of stock.

A great many consumers receive the timber in the form of semifinished material which requires additional processing for use. Such initial consumers as sawmills and veneering plants have large amounts of waste products left over. Production of rare and many other possible types of products from these waste products is still far from established everywhere. Hence, there is already a low norm of utilization of lumber stock in the first stage of its processing. Even the calculation of the percentage of utilization of stock, in the sawmills or being processed, is still not at the proper level everywhere. Therefore, it is necessary to raise the norms of production output from stock to stimulate full utilization of wood and careful treatment of timber.

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There is still ~~great~~ waste in the second stage. In the processing plants of consumers and in industrial branches there are often obviously excessively high norms of timber consumption, unchecked by careful accounting, which are outdated. Their backwardness is the result not only of careless use of timber stock on the part of the consumer, but in many cases is due to the fact that the consumer is receiving untreated, irregular timber.

The USSR timber industry is improving. The first important steps in overcoming its lag have been taken. With each quarter of the year, timber resources are being increased. This makes it possible to eliminate many bottlenecks of timber supply in the 1949 plan, and to develop it as a plan for increasing the quantity and quality of timber supply.

One of the most important factors affecting the postwar development of the timber industry is development of forest exploitation in the zones of abundance such as north European USSR, the Urals, and Siberia. This increase will meet the country's growing demand for wood and will compensate for the reduction in timber exploitation in the depleted regions of the central, southern, and western USSR. This development will be combined with a sharply increased program of production by the Ministry of Timber Industry USSR and with a reduction in the amount produced by independent loggers. The proportion of total 1947 logging operations accounted for by independent loggers ran as high as 70 percent in the central, southern, and western regions.

The loggers of west Siberia must put an end to the lag in their output. If stocks for the coming fall and winter season are not considerably increased from that source, some major timber consumers in Siberia will be dependent on timber from European USSR.

The needs of the Kuznetsov Basin must be fully met by the Siberian timber regions adjacent to the Kuzbass.

Despite the general rise in logging during the past fall and winter seasons, there was a great amount of wood wasted and not removed from the forest in certain regions. Valuable grades left in the forest lose their quality, and saw logs and "cross-tie timber go for firewood. To a large extent this is a result of the formal fulfillment of the plan by the loggers without concern for the delivery of all timber to the consumers. This must not be repeated in the coming fall and winter season or in 1949.

Increasing the role of the basic supplier, the Ministry of Timber Industry, in the total amount of logging will increase the marketability of the products of logging. In the timber-supply plan it will facilitate proper conservation of timber resources according to the needs of the different branches of the national economy.

In the 1949 plan, great attention must be given to improvement of quality and widening of the assortment of sawmill products.

The workers of the timber industry believe, and justly so, that the timber plant (lesnyy zavod) should turn out, as a rule, not rough planks but semifinished products. There can be no doubt that well-equipped sawmills of the Ministry of Timber Industry can normally make a large part of its timber into semifinished products while maintaining optimum output and keeping waste at a minimum. Such a mill can easily solve the problem of utilization of waste for tere, slabs, hydrolysis, and other purposes. The Ministry of Timber Industry must attack this problem with the greatest determination.

Among the important tasks before the workers of the timber industry are improving supply (transitnoye snabzheniye) to consumers and, in connection with this, creating reserve stocks of assorted timber in the areas of consumption. Henceforth, the timber industry must supply not only big

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consumers of specific grades of timber such as coal mines, cellulose and paper combines, and large-scale construction enterprises, but also individual consumers demanding a diverse assortment of timber. A network of timber storage points will be created for large-scale consumers needing a wide assortment of grades. However, the development of these storage points on a wide scale will only be possible when a sufficient ready reserve of timber exists.

Good organization of timber distribution requires: (1) uniformity in delivery of timber to the various consumers, with routing to each consumer of timber of the requested quality and specifications; and (2) delivery of timber assortments on schedule and in accordance with the consumer's rate of utilization. The accomplishment of this organization requires that: (a) production programs of logging and milling be fulfilled in accordance with the needs of the national economy and its individual branches as a whole, and not only by volume but by grade and specifications; (b) the timber industry be thoroughly familiar with the requirements of the consumers and the technical and economic quotas for consumption of timber; and (c) there be an expedient organizational tie between producer and consumer.

One of the first links in the chain of preliminary work for the 1949 plan of timber supply must be the establishment of grades and specifications.

In the first approximation, as early as the third quarter of 1948, the amounts of logging to be planned for each trust for the coming fall and winter season and for 1949 as a whole, will become apparent. After seeing these first figures, the trusts of the Ministry of Timber Industry and the oblast managements of the Glavsnabes must come to an agreement concerning the specifications, grading, and classification of felled timber.

Glavsnabes must work out in advance specifications for round timber, such as pit props, long shipbuilding timbers, greenwood timbers, and other round greenwood products.

Establishing sorting and specifications in the plan will make it much more complicated, but this problem must be worked out intricately and in advance. Too much time and labor is usually expended in preparation of the plan for railroad car transport volume, and too little in the sorting and specification plan.

In September, when a large part of the sawed, floatable stock will already have been delivered, or at least sent to its floating destination, it will be possible to determine more definitely the amount of milling to be done in the period up to the 1949 floatage. On the basis of this data, a production program for each timber trust (or independent mill) for the period up to 1 July 1949 must be worked out.

Consumers' requirements, expressed in volume and in railroad carloads, are usually well represented by the main administrations of supply of the consuming ministries. However, the exact specifications of timber required by each individual enterprise is often not known by the main administration of supply of the consuming ministry. An administration of the Glavsnabes in a timber area far from the consumer does not know these specifications, and the administration of the Glavsnabes in the area of consumption must fill in this gap.

In some instances, where the allocation arrangement has been marked by long-standing cooperation between the supplier and the consumer, the consumer should have the opportunity for direct contact with the contracting mill. Such arrangements should appear in the timber-supply plan.

There are only a few months in which to complete the preparation of a timber supply plan for 1949. The requirements of construction, mining, and machine-building enterprises, and paper mills must be met.

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